six times that in 1080. There was no possibility of extending the area under cultivation. The remedies were the introduction of agricultural improvements, the construction of irrigation works on a large and systematic scale throughout the country and the intensive cultivation of the area now under the plough.

There was no possibility of conserving rain-water for use in times of drought, and consequently when the season was not favourable, the crops failed completely. The state of affairs in South Travancore was different and the Government were spending large sums in the interests of the ryots there. In Central and North Travancore, where there was no system of irrigation by means of tanks, crops very often failed for want of water but remission of tax was not allowed in those cases. A few channels used for irrigation purposes had gone out of repair and their beds encroached upon and in some cases registered in the names of the owners of neighbouring wet lands.

Dewan.—Orders have been recently issued for the removal of these encroachments. The beds of these channels will be left intact. Further registry of the same has also been prohibited.

The Member continued and said that the extension of the cultivable area could only be achieved by throwing open for cultivation those portions of the reserved forests which were not of any practical use for forest conservation. Thousands of acres of productive land could be brought under cultivation by that method.

In regard to Central and North Travancore, the Member requested that the existing irrigation tanks and canals might be kept under proper repair and the scope of their usefulness might be widened wherever possible and advantageous to do so. A survey of the country should be undertaken with a view to ascertain the possibility of providing large storage tanks and of utilizing the many rivers for irrigation purposes. The work could be attended to by the staff of the Public Works Department without additional cost and at the same time many thousands of acres of wet lands, which were now ruined owing to the effect of drought, could be rescued annually. The Member then referred to the advantages that would result from the proposed Athirapalli Project in the Kunnatnad taluk though the outlay on it might be heavy. He was sure that it would be a re-productive work in the real sense unlike the Kodayar Project which did not even pay for its maintenance. The Member requested that the Project might be taken up at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Other Industries.

60. The economic condition of Travancore and its industries.

Mr. K. C. Govindan (Member, Nominated) said that agriculture, commerce and industry were the mainstay of a country. No measures were now adopted in Travancore to give instruction in those subjects. General instruction in all of them could be freely imparted in the elementary schools of the State. The education the students received at the schools was not of such a nature as to be of any use to them in earning their livelihood. Only a very small fraction of the students that entered Class V of the elementary schools obtained the School Leaving Certificate, enabling them to seek admission in Government service. Those who did not obtain the certificate, and those who, having obtained it, did not get an employment, were unable to earn their livelihood by any means and their number was swelling from year to year. If only they had general education on any useful technical subject while at school, their fate would have been better. In reply to a query from the Dewan, the Member said that what he proposed was that industrial education should be imparted in all schools. Even with the advanced educational condition of the State, it was not easy to find one who had technical education. The education should be such as to improve the memory of the children, and they should at the same time be made to understand something of everything.

He was of opinion that an industrial survey of the State was now unnecessary. If the copra that was being exported every year were conserved here and

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verted into various forms or used for the preparation of soap, wax, biscuits and ilar other articles, the gain would be immense. A professional man having thorough owledge of the manufacture of those articles should be got down at Government st and instruction should be imparted to the people. The import of cotton-goods o the State could be checked by affording facilities for the development of local aving. There were many professional weavers and the quality of the goods ey manufactured could be improved by imparting to them scientific knowledge in the dustry by means of weaving classes. About three lakhs of rupees' worth of jaggery d molasses was being exported annually and five lakhs of rupees' worth of sugar im-orted every year. He thought that all the sugar required for consumption could be oduced locally. He requested that the Government should render better help in ie development of the sugar cane and jaggery industries. He advocated the desirability affording additional facilities for the manufacture of salt, so that Travancore could epend upon home salt for consumption throughout the State. Tobacco culti-ation in the State might also be started under the guidance of the Department of griculture and Fisheries.

In conclusion, he referred to the technical scholarships offered by Government nd he requested that, at the time of awarding scholarships, the claims of the Ezhavas hould also be considered.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

61. Reform of the Public Works Department.

Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that the nefits accruing to the people were not proportionate to the increase of expenditure nd the increase of staff in the Public Works Department. The department was first -organised in 1071 and the Chief Engineer again proposed the re-organisation of ne staff in 1079, but the Government did not sanction his proposals. The roposals were repeated in 1086 and the re-organisation of the staff was then nctioned. In view of the completion of the Kodayar Project, the staff of the epartment, especially under temporary establishment, should have been considerably educed, but on the other hand the number and pay of the officers and staff were ncreased in the re-organisation. He said that Engineers had not much clerical work ut only supervision work, and the large clerical establishment for them was therefore nnecessary. The necessity for a full-time Executive Engineer for the supervision f the Kodayar Works was also not evident. An Assistant Engineer would do for it. efore the re-organisation of 1086, the Trivandrum Division Officer was assisting the hief Engineer in the conduct of his office work. Now when there was an Executive nd an Assistant Engineer attached to the Workshop, a Deputy Chief Engineer as quite unnecessary. He also said that the pay of the Deputy Chief Engineer was ery high, as compared with that of many other important officers in the State. The ost on establishment in the department should not be compared to that in British India, because, in British India, the department was concerned with the important works alone, the minor works being executed by the local bodies, whereas in Travan-core, even minor works were attended to by the department. The cost of the establish-ment was higher in Travancore than in other Native States.

The Member doubted the propriety of spending large sums annually on tools and plant, when there was a well-manned workshop in the department.

He then complained that contracts for the execution of public works were generally given to foreigners, and said that the practice should be stopped and contracts given to the natives of the country as far as possible.

Coming to the question of estimates, he said that they were far in excess of the actual requirements and that it would be evident from the fact that contractors often sub-let their contracts in succession and even the last man who did the work had his share of profit. He attributed the evil to the absence of any professional check in the Huzur Office. The estimates sanctioned often contained mistakes of omission and

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